Part One:

My personal interest/hobby has always been related to gaming. Ever since a young age I have been playing video games. Starting with the Gamecube, then the Nintendo DS, the Wii, and finally onto the Xbox 360, Xbox One and computer gaming. I started out playing Mario Cart and other games, but nowadays a lot of the games I play are the super popular games at the time (i.e. Fortnite, Call of Duty, League of Legends, CSGO, and Overwatch). Recently I have been playing a lot of Fortnite with my friends over Xbox live, a system that allows people on different Xboxes’ to play with each other from anywhere on the globe as long as they are connected to the internet and have a subscription to Xbox live. Using Xbox live is a great time because while you can play with them, you can also talk to them using the party chat system that Xbox live provides as long as you have a microphone. Xbox live provides a lot of entertainment to my friends and I for gaming, along with many other people around the world. Xbox even has all of the popular tv streaming networks and applications to allow the system to cater to almost anyone's entertainment needs. I like this hobby because it is very entertaining and allows me to escape from the real world for a period of time. Playing games is almost always a great time, and it allows me to play with my friends, allowing us to bond even more. Another thing about gaming that I enjoy is that in today's world, there are streamers and youtubers that will help teach inexperienced players how to get better at the games while simultaneously entertaining their viewers. The gaming community is a great community to be in, no matter all the debates over which consoles or games are the best, gaming is an unforgettable experience that I have had throughout my life.

Ever since the release of the Xbox One in late 2013, Microsoft has been battling against Sony to see who has the more popular, powerful, and entertaining console for its users. The sales of the PS4 have outnumbered the sales of the Xbox One ever since its release, but that has not stopped Microsoft from
attempting to make its product as technologically advanced as possible. Initially focusing on the “living-room experience” aspect of the console, Microsoft’s direction for its product had failed in comparison to the Playstation 4. (Shrout) With a little bit of changes in management, “Microsoft is now pushing forward with the most advanced hardware design by a wide margin,” and it is aiming towards bringing the Xbox console experience to the same level as that of a PC gamer. (Shrout) Many gamers will tell you that nothing compares to that of gaming on a computer. On PC, a gamer can constantly change their graphics card (the processor that allows the graphics to look so beautiful), and overall will have a more smooth relaxing experience. While Xbox continues to develop, its release of the Xbox one has made my gaming experience significantly better. From constantly better graphics, to better connection to the game, I have absolutely zero negative things to say about the console. Microsoft is doing its best to break the gap between its competitors, working its way to the top in the gaming world. This can be seen in its new release of the Xbox One X, the brand new, most technologically advanced gaming console in the world. (Shrout) Microsoft is pushing to become the leader in technology, both hardware and software, and its gamers, me included, could not be happier about it. I can see myself in a few years becoming even more obsessed with gaming, and I cannot wait to see what brand new technology is implemented. Even after just releasing the brand new Xbox One X, microsoft engineers are “deep into architecting the next Xbox consoles, where [they] will once again deliver on our commitment to set the benchmark for console gaming.” (Soper) Microsoft will not stop until they have dominated the market of console gaming, and this makes me very pleased because it is my favorite console to game with, and it always will be.
Part Two:

Ozark: Season 1/ Episode 9 “Coffee, Black”

Ozark is a show on Netflix about a man named Marty Byrd who originally works in Investment Management at the beginning of the show. Marty has a firm with one of his good friends, and as a viewer you soon find out that the two of them are money laundering for a Mexican drug cartel. The two of them together decided to do so so that they could make some extra cash to support both of their families. What Marty does not know is that his business partner is stealing some of the money that they are laundering. Eventually the drug cartel figures out what is going on and kills his business partner and gives Marty one last shot of proving himself to the cartel. He is faced with having to launder roughly $100 Million for the cartel until he can stop working for them. He has a plan and moves to the Lake of the Ozarks with his family where he sets up business, making friends and many enemies along the way. Marty immediately begins getting investigated by the FBI after he withdraws all of his company’s money in depository banks and moves to Missouri.

Marty works closely with one of the people he met in town named Ruth. Ruth has family she must support and originally caught onto what Byrd was doing so he was forced to hire her. Ruth is loyal to Marty and his business, and eventually she finds out that her own uncle is trying to set both her and Marty up by trying to get her to talk about the business. She figured this out because she suspected that her uncle was wearing a wire for the FBI, a member of which he met due to a sexual relationship. The FBI has no information to lock Marty up, so they attempt to get Ruth’s own uncle to set her up. After Ruth figures out that her uncle is wearing a wire, she takes immediate action to make sure that her uncle will never take surveillance on her again. This is a potential danger about the technology because many may see it as a threat and go to extreme precaution to make sure that they do not get caught. The technology that I will be talking about is the wire that Ruth’s uncle was wearing, and along with that communication and surveillance.
The technology of hiding a recording device on one’s body is not one that has been around too long, but as of recent has become very effective for the police and other enforcement agencies. While mostly used by these government agencies, a recording device or “wire” can be purchased by almost anyone just through a quick amazon search. This device can be used by anyone and costs less than $50 almost anywhere you buy it, unless it is of very high quality. In 40 states, any ordinary citizen can legally record conversations. “That means you can “wire” a conversation between yourself and one or more other individuals to the conversation and it is perfectly legal.” (Tobias) I would say that this technology is solving problems for the world. Considering that the technology is mainly used for law enforcement, the person that is eventually convicted because of the recordings has a reason to be and it will be good that this person is off the streets. The only danger of the technology I could think of is that if the criminal does find out that the person trying to audio record them is in fact recording them, they could inflict physical damage upon that person, take them hostage, or even potentially kill them depending on how serious getting caught is for the criminal. The technology is affecting the people in the show very negatively because it can lead to the arrest and eventual downfall. This is the reason why Ruth took action afterwards to make sure that her Uncle would never mess with her or Marty Bird ever again, even though this meant that the FBI would be even more curious about their actions and would look into their business deeper. I would say that this type of technology is ethical because a large majority of the time it means that a criminal is being locked up the wrongs that they have done and that helps society. I do believe that if put into the wrong hands, this technology could be dangerous because it could allow someone to “blackmail” a person they want to get revenge on.

As a whole, if used properly this technology can be life saving and protect ordinary citizens from crime, especially organized crime. The technology is very often used in tv shows about criminal activity, but few people know that almost anyone around them can be wearing a wire they purchased online. In the next few years, I believe that they technology could change to a point where it is almost impossible to detect that a person is wearing a wire physically, meaning that the device would be so small that it would be almost unnoticeable which could help law enforcement out greatly.

